

TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI

The Libyan Domestic Situation

[redacted] the US bombing of Libya last month marked a watershed in Qadhafi's ability to rally the support of the Libyan armed forces and public.

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-- The initial response of the Libya public was a desire to escape; many fled the major towns to avoid the danger of subsequent air strikes. [redacted] at most the Libyans are indifferent to the fate of the regime.

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-- [redacted] skirmishes between regular troops and the radical Revolutionary Committees--Qadhafi's primary source of support--in the immediate aftermath of the raids. In addition a battalion of troops apparently mutinied at Tarhuna--outside Tripoli--on 16 April; it was put down by loyal air force units. [redacted]

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Qadhafi is still in control of the regime, but he is taking steps to shore up his support in the armed forces and to reconsolidate his grip on power. In particular he is giving greater prominence to the remaining members of the "Revolutionary Command Council"--the original group of nationalist officers that helped him seize power in 1969--which has given rise to rumors that Qadhafi is "sharing power" with a junta.

-- In our view, however, the renewed prominence of these officers--some of whom have the confidence of the officer corps--is mainly window-dressing to project an image of national unity. Qadhafi still dictates policy. [redacted]

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At the same time, Qadhafi is moving to root out opposition to the regime.

-- An authoritative press statement last week warned that there would be a reckoning with individuals who performed poorly or abandoned their posts during the airstrikes; [redacted] some officers have been executed.

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[REDACTED]

We judge that Qadhafi has been sobered by the results of the US airstrikes. He probably calculated that a US attack on Libya would generate considerable popular support for the regime both at home and in the Arab World in general. This clearly has not been the case--even the Arab League could not agree to meet to discuss the attack.

- Nonetheless, Qadhafi's personal commitment to revolution and his increasing dependence on the radicals of the Revolutionary Committees for political support suggests that he will not abandon his support for terrorism and subversion, although he may be more careful to conceal official Libyan involvement in future attacks. [REDACTED]

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The Libyan military continues to show concern about a possible US attack and appears to be pacing itself to sustain its alert for several more weeks if necessary.

- [REDACTED] Libyan aircraft, ground forces, and warships remain defensively dispersed. Several batteries of light antiaircraft artillery have been set up to help defend such facilities as the Tripoli and Banghazi ports, the Republican Guard garrison adjacent to Libyan leader Qadhafi's Aziziyah Barracks, and a power plant in Tripoli.

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- One of the two sites at the new Banghazi SA-5 complex appears ready for operation, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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